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THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
TO THE  
ST. IVES BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR  
1957.

*Cornwall.*





MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor	J. Payne (Chairman)
Mayor	Councillor W.D. Gill
Alderman	J. Curnow
Alderman	J.W. Daniel
Councillor	N.A. Beechman
Councillor	J. Couch
Councillor	W.J.M. Lamerton
Councillor	G.N. Pearce
Councillor	N.G. Sanders

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. D.L. Johnson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. P.C. Deeble, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.



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Public Health Department,  
The Guildhall,  
St. Ives.

To the MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS,

BOROUGH of ST. IVES.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

The only case of serious Infectious Disease in the Borough during the year 1957 was that of a child who contracted Paratyphoid Fever. The probability is that the infection came from a stream from which he drank, but it was not possible to isolate the organism from it even with the methods now available. Another food poisoning organism was, however, isolated from a tributary, and suitable warning notices were displayed. Last year's epidemic of measles was followed by a small rise in the notification of Whooping Cough, also noted in two of the other districts in the Area.

The one case of poliomyelitis in the Land's End area is a reminder of the continued presence of this disease even in a year of relative quiet in the country as a whole. The scheme for vaccinating children against the disease, extended to include all born between 1947 and 1956, still only made slow progress due to slow delivery of vaccine: this was despite the Government decision to import vaccine. By the end of 1957 930 children had been vaccinated in the No. 1 Health Area - 179 being children living in the Borough.

One of the great difficulties that a small Public Health Department is up against in a popular seaside town is that it is impossible to keep an eye on all potential danger points to public health at the very time when it is most necessary - at the height of the holiday season. Nevertheless, there is no denying that, from the point of view of the visiting population as well as the residents, it is most important to maintain a high standard in food shops, camping sites and public services such as water supplies and refuse removal, to mention only a few. Despite his many duties Mr. Deeble somehow contrives to keep a very close eye on the whole situation, and the pages that follow give a very good indication of the work that is got through to this end.

D. L. JOHNSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

1. Estimated population		8,480
2. Area		4,339 acres
3. Rateable value		£123,398
4. Product of 1d. rate		£491
5. Number of inhabited houses		3,210
6. Live births	52 male Rate per 1,000 population 12.3	52 female 104 total
7. Still births	2 male Rate per 1,000 total births 45.9	3 female 5 total
8. Total deaths	56 male Rate per 1,000 population 13.8	61 female 117 total
9. Infant deaths	1 male Rate per 1,000 live births 9.6	- female 1 total
10. Maternal deaths		Nil

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - respiratory	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
lung, Bronchus	3	1	4
Breast	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	10	16
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of Nervous system	6	15	21
Coronary disease, Angina	14	8	22
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart disease	8	10	18
Other circulatory disease	3	5	8
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Other disease of Respiratory system	5	-	5
Ulcer of stomach and Duodenum	-	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2	4
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	2	2
Suicide	-	1	1
	<u>56</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>117</u>

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Heart disease	41
Cancer	23
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21
Other circulatory disease	8



### 1. WATER SUPPLY

The following table is of interest in showing the progress made with new supplies:-

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
(a) With main supply	2961	3030	3090	3126	3188	3222
(b) With standpipe supply	-	48	46	46	46	46
(c) Without either	182	119	118	65	46	46

With the ever increasing seasonal water demand, there is little doubt that the provision of additional treatment plant annually becomes more necessary. Previous annual reports have drawn attention to this inadequacy and I commend the matter to the Council for further serious consideration

### 2. SEWERAGE

A further extension of the main system was carried out to serve additional properties in the Hellesvean and Consols area.

### 3. HOUSING

During the year 14 houses were built by the Council and 20 by private enterprise.

#### Slum Clearance

To assist the Council in their consideration of the problems associated with the large measure of unsatisfactory housing conditions in the Halsetown Area, the report on the social survey carried out in this area in 1956, was presented to the Council.

Serious consideration was given to the sociological problems spotlighted in the report and although final discussions have not yet been made in this most difficult problem, it is hoped that a start will soon be made in the provision of more satisfactory housing accommodation for many of the residents.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1957.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year under consideration.

Within the limits of the time that I am able to devote to each section of my duties, I feel that it is justifiable to say that the year has been one of reasonable progress in those matters detailed in the body of the report.

The most memorable event during the year was the commencement of refuse tipping operations at the Lelant Saltings. Every year shows a most noticable and disturbing increase in the volume of refuse collected. The problem being at its worst, not only when all available personnel are fully employed, but also when the service is seriously delayed by the heavy summer traffic. This refuse yield is out of all proportion to the additional properties to be annually serviced and is a national rather than a local problem. In consequence, it is understandable that the Council should seek a disposal site within their own boundary to decrease the haulage mileage. Despite this time saving, to give the service required, it has been necessary to operate during the peak seasonal period on an overtime basis. There is little doubt that we are reaching the stage when it will become a more economic proposition to enlarge the collection service for the summer period.

Experience has shown that the need exists in the Borough, especially during the summer season, for public washing facilities. These are at present restricted to the provision of wash-hand basins and a cold water supply in some of the conveniences. Vandalism, even extended to smashing the wash-hand basins, is the greatest obstacle to be overcome in providing the required additional facilities. However, bearing in mind the practical and economic difficulties, consideration is being given to schemes for the operation of these facilities and I feel sure that the Council will wish to make all necessary provision to meet this public need.

I appreciate the continued interest and support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and wish to acknowledge the co-operation received from Dr. Johnson and the other Chief Officers of this Council.

Your obedient servant,  
P.C. DEEBLE. Public Health Inspector



1. SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

	<u>Number of visits</u>
<u>General Sanitation</u>	
Drainage	193
Water supply	48
Tents, vans and sheds	64
Public conveniences	53
Factories	6
Licensed premises	3
Rodent control	3
Atmospheric pollution	23
Schools	6
Infestation	8
Miscellaneous	73
<u>Housing</u>	
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	104
Houses re-inspected under Public Health Acts	31
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	47
Houses re-inspected under Housing Acts	9
Houses inspected under Overcrowding Acts	3
Houses re-inspected under Overcrowding Acts	2
Miscellaneous	165
<u>Infectious diseases</u>	
Inquiries	33
Disinfections	4
Miscellaneous	9
<u>Supervision of Food Premises</u>	
Slaughterhouse	51
Butchers	13
Dairies and milk distributors	10
Fishmongers	1
Food preparing premises	5
Fried fish shops	2
Grocers	29
Greengrocers	4
Ice cream premises	11
Restaurants	5
Bakehouses	1
Food Hygiene Regulations	37
Miscellaneous	6
<u>Public Cleansing</u>	
Refuse collection	30
Refuse disposal	142
Street cleansing	35
Vehicle maintenance	47
<u>Shops Act and Regulations</u>	
Shop premises	60
<u>Storage of Petroleum Spirit</u>	
Petroleum storage installations	21

Rag Flock Regulations

Rag flock premises	2
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Total .. .. .	<u>1,399</u>
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Notices served

Formal	2
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Informal	57
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Certificates of disrepair

Housing repairs and Rents Act, 1954	Nil
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Rent Act, 1957	Nil
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2. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD(a) Types of food premises

The number and types of food premises in the area are as follows:-

Bakers	13
Butchers	11
Cafes and Restaurants	36
Confectioners	9
Dairies	7
Fruiterers	11
Fish dealers	4
Fish fryers	5
Grocers	36
Licensed premises	12
Hotels and boarding houses	121

(b) Ice Cream

Total registrations of premises within the Borough are now as follows:-

Manufacture, storage and sale	3
Storage and sale	70

6 ice cream samples were taken with the results as follows:-

Grade 1.

6

Ice cream (heat treatment, etc.) Regulation, 1947.

As far as could be ascertained, manufacturers and vendors fully complied with these Regulations.

(c) Milk supply

Milk Regulations, 1949.

Persons registered as a distributor of milk	17
Premises registered as a dairy	18

Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950.

Dealer's licence - Tuberculin tested	4
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Milk (special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953.

Dealer's Licence - Pasteurised	13
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(d) Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-6.

To ensure compliance with these Regulations 37 inspections were carried out. The fact that it was not found necessary to recommend statutory action to the Council, is a good indication of the co-operation received from the Traders concerned. It was also gratifying to find that the Education Authority were prepared to accept the advice given concerning the School Canteens in their endeavour to ensure a high standard at these establishments.

(e) Condemned food

Various tinned foods	677 lbs.
Slaughterhouse (fresh meat)	492 lbs.
Fresh meat	75 lbs.
Fish	60 lbs.
Cooked ham	40 lbs.
<hr/>	
Total .. .. .	1,344 lbs.

Disposal of condemned meat is by burial during the normal course of controlled tipping operations, at the refuse disposal site.

(f) Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

See Appendix A.

(g) Weights and Measures Control (Adulteration, etc.)

The County Council is responsible for the working of these Acts and Regulations and I am indebted to Mr. H.A. Rundle, Divisional Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, for the following report:-

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Details of samples of foodstuffs procured during 1957 within the Borough of St. Ives, by H.A. Rundle, Weights and Measures Department, Cornwall County Council.

<u>ARTICLES SAMPLED</u>	<u>NUMBER TAKEN</u>	<u>GENUINE</u>	<u>SUB-STANDARD</u>
Bottled cream	1	1	-
Dried Thyme	1	1	-
Fish cakes	1	1	-
Ice cream	4	4	-
Lard	1	1	-
Malt vinegar	1	1	-
Milk	38	38	-
Sausages	1	1	-
Sausages (Beef)	1	1	-
Sausages (Pork)	3	3	-
Totals .. ..	52	52	-

None of the samples procured call for adverse comment and, as in previous years, milk was found to be of very good quality with fat content above average for the County as a whole. The sausages showed a high percentage of meat content and where preservative was used it was declared on the premises to intending purchasers. No complaint reached me during the period under review in respect of any foodstuffs purchased from the various traders in the Borough.

3. WATER SAMPLES

11 samples were submitted for analysis, the reports being as follows:-

Bacteriological Examination

Tap - 41 Alexandra Road	Satisfactory
Tap - Hellesveor Farm	Satisfactory
Tap - Towednack Road	Satisfactory
Tap - Halsetown Inn	Satisfactory
Tap - standpipe - Halsetown	Satisfactory
Tap - standpipe - Wharf Road	Satisfactory
Tap - Halsetown Inn	Satisfactory

Bacteriological and Chemical Examinations

41 Alexandra Road	This is a very soft water, and somewhat acid that is bound to be corrosive to metals. Apart from this, the findings are satisfactory.
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Towednack Road

This is a very soft water that is bound to be corrosive to metals. Apart from this tendency, it can be regarded as being satisfactory.

Standpipe - Halsetown

This is a very soft, somewhat acid water, suitable for all domestic uses provided that harmless materials are used in the storage and piping systems.

Standpipe - Wharf Road

The findings are all satisfactory and the water can be regarded as being a pure and wholesome supply.

#### 4. RODENT CONTROL.

The normal routine inspections and control measures were continued and all requests for treatment were given urgent attention.

Credit should again be given to Mr. T. Hankervis for the conscientious and able way he keeps the town substantially free from rodents.

#### 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

##### (a) Refuse collection and disposal.

As indicated in the preamble to this report, tipping commenced at the Lelant Saltings on the 23rd May, 1957. Disposal is on the controlled tipping basis and every effort is being made to ensure the operation of the tip in a satisfactory manner.

To reduce hand labour to a minimum we are operating a 45 B.H.P. crawler tractor with Angledozer/Bulldozer equipment. Experience in cutting covering material from the existing non-domestic section of the tip has shown that we should have run into severe practical difficulties without mechanisation.

As far as possible, materials having a market value were segregated at the tipping face. Salvage sold included ferrous and non-ferrous metals, rags and bottles.

Added weight can be given to my remarks in the introduction to this report on the problems associated with the collection and disposal services, when it is considered that of the annual total of 2,048 loads of refuse, 42% were dealt with during the four summer months.

##### (b) Street sweeping.

The mileage of roads requiring sweeping amounts to approximately 20 miles of unclassified roads and 10,53 miles of County Council roads.

A notable event was the introduction of a pilot scheme for the cleansing of the coastal road from St. Ives to Lands End. Although we are only responsible for the short section of road within our own boundary, it is estimated that some 30 cubic yards of litter were cleansed from that section during the summer season. It was generally agreed



that the pilot scheme was a considerable success and it is to be hoped that it will become a permanent feature of the cleansing services of the Authorities concerned.

Dealing generally with litter control, I feel safe in saying that however admirable exhortations to the general public may be, we have found that at present the real task and solution is the provision of adequate litter receptacles and the employment of sufficient sweepers to ensure almost constant attention to the cleanliness of the streets and public open spaces.

(c) Gully cleansing and cesspool emptying machine.

This vehicle was hired out on 188 occasions as follows:-

West Penwith	107
St. Ives	42
C.C. Council	25
St. Just	12
Penzance	2

6. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Number of public conveniences in the Borough :-

<u>Site</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Urinal stalls</u>
Porthminster	16	3	4
West Pier	10	3	6
Sloop car park	6	3	5
Island	6	4	6
Meadow	3	2	3
Porthmcoor	4	2	3
Coach park	5	2	3
Longstone, Carbis Bay	2	1	2
Gabriel Street	3	-	-
Dove Street	-	1	3
Smeatons Pier	-	3	4
Smeatons Pier (end)	-	-	3

53 inspections were made of the various public conveniences to ensure compliance with satisfactory standards. The revenue received for the year ending 31st March, 1957 was £2,356.

There is little doubt that the hygiene control of public conveniences creates a considerable impression on the visiting public. Personally, I am always prepared to accept such conditions as a general measure of efficient administration. I am glad to be able to report general praise for the condition of our conveniences.

7. SHOPS ACT, 1950.

For the third year in succession it is necessary to mention the action taken to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the Shops Act concerning Sunday trading.

As a measure of the Councils intention to ensure compliance with the statute, proceedings before the Magistrates resulted in fines totalling £100 being imposed on a trader. Further offences by this trader, resulted in the Magistrates making an order binding him over in the sum of £500 to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for a term of twelve months, with an alternative of two months imprisonment.

8. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

(a) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)					
Premises (1)	M/C line No. (2)	Number on reg- ister (3)	Inspect- ions. (4)	Number of Written notices. (5)	Occupiers prosecuted. (6)
(1) Factories in which section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	1	13	4	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	2	51	5	-	-
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers premises).	3	-	-	-	-
Totals		64	9	-	-

## (b) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/C line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were		Referred		Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted. (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Insp ector (5)	By H.M. Insp ector (6)	
Sanitary conveniences (S7)						
(a) Insufficient	9	4	4	-	4	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	12	-	-	-	-	-
Total		4	4	-	4	-

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORKERS.

Sections 110 and 111.

Section 110				Section 111			
Nature of work	No. of Line No.	Number of outworkers on August list. Required by Sect. 110 (1)(c).	Number of cases in default in sending lists to the Council.	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing ) Making, etc. aparel	15	1	-	-	-	-	-
Nets, other than wire nets	29	22	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		23	-	-	-	-	-

## APPENDIX A.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned.

	CATTLE Excluding cows	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS	HORSES
Number killed	105	-	-	112	7	-
Number inspected	105	-	-	112	7	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	34	-	-	2	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	33	-	-	2	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	5	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-







## APPENDIX B.

Infectious diseases - 1957.  
(Corrected Notification).

DISEASE	PENZANCE BOROUGH	ST. IVES BOROUGH	WEST PENWITH RURAL	ST. JUST URBAN
Scarlet fever	-	4	3	-
Whooping cough	32	31	197	-
Poliomyelitis - paralytic	1	-	-	-
Measles	2	6	21	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	3	-
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	19	7	5	6
Other	6	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	-	-	-
Food poisoning	1	22	4	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	1	-	-
Typhoid fever	1	-	-	-

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Area	Number of children who completed a full course of immunisation in 1957.			Number of chil- dren receiving refresher doses.
	Under 5	5 - 14	Total	
Penzance	189	13	202	307
St. Ives	59	6	65	41
West Penwith	196	16	212	157
St. Just	52	3	55	73



## Total notifications 45

Category	Deaths
Total deaths	11

[illegible]

